

James E. McGreevey Governor

# State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF LAW
PO BOX 45029
NEWARK, NJ 07101

September 15, 2004

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Peter C. Harvey Attorney General

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Room TW-B204 Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Irene Flannery Universal Service Administrative Company 2120 L Street, NW - Suite 600 Washington, DC 20037

Re: I/M/O Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket No. 96-45

Certification of Use of High Cost Support Warwick Valley Telephone Company

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

On behalf of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board), enclosed are five (5) copies of a Board Order of Approval, in which the Board certifies that Warwick Valley Telephone Company (Warwick) shall use the high cost universal service funds it receives during 2005 consistent with Federal law. This letter and the enclosed Order of Approval are submitted in compliance with the certification requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.314. Please file-stamp and return a copy of this filing in the enclosed return envelope.

The Board's certification and Order of Approval reflects the sworn affidavit of Philip A. Grybas, Vice President of Warwick, in which he states the following:

Warwick Valley Telephone Company herebito of Copies rec'd certifies that it will only use the federalist ABCDE high-cost universal support it receives during



2005 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and service for which such support is intended, as required by \$254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. \$54.101 et seq.

Please note that a previous letter was sent to you by the undersigned, dated September 9, 2004, which erroneously referred to universal service funds to be spent in 2004. Please disregard said letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER C. HARVEY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

Toda C. Steadman

Deputy Attorney General

Enc:

cc: Herbert Gareiss, Jr., President Bradford M. Stern, Esq. Bruce Gallagher, BPU



Agenda Date: 8/18/04 Agenda Item: IV C

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF	)	ORDER OF APPROVAL
WARWICK VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY	)	
FOR CERTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO	)	
THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT	)	DOCKET NO. TO01090575

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

#### BY THE BOARD:

On June 25, 2004, pursuant to 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314, Warwick Valley Telephone Company (Warwick) filed a verified petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) requesting certification that Warwick's use of Universal Service Support funds (USS) is consistent with the purposes for which such funds may be used, according to federal law. On July 6, 2004, Warwick sent certification of publication regarding this matter. This certification must be filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by October 1, 2004 in order for Warwick to receive its full allocation of funds under requirements imposed by the FCC. Warwick has requested expedited treatment of this matter.

Warwick is an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) providing telecommunications services to customers in the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, New Jersey, and the towns of Warwick and Goshen, New York. Warwick provides service to approximately 37,217 access lines, of which approximately 9,717 are in New Jersey. Warwick is a rural telephone company as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §§151 <u>et seq.</u>) (hereinafter, the Act). <u>See</u> 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 153(37). The Board has previously certified Warwick as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §214(e). <u>See</u> Order of Approval, <u>I/M/O a Petition by Warwick Valley Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket No. TO97080587 (November 25, 1997). Under the Act, certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is necessary in order to receive federal Universal Service Support. 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).</u>

Because state certification is now required on an annual basis, and in order to ensure continued use of universal support funds in a manner consistent with federal law, the Board <u>DIRECTS</u> Warwick to submit to the Board, no later that July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, a report, in a manner and format to be determined by Staff, providing auditable information sufficient to determine Warwick's compliance with federal law, including, but not limited to, compliance with the FCC's required uses of universal support funds. The Board <u>FURTHER DIRECTS</u> Warwick to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Such notice shall be reviewed by Staff prior to its publication.

By letter, dated December 30, 2003, Warwick provided pro forma information as of December 31, 2003 on Warwick's use of USS funds, in the same format and using the same accounting method that Warwick used in filing its previous petition for certification, dated June 25, 2003, at Docket No. TO01090575. Warwick stated that, absent different format and accounting methods determined by Board Staff, it intended to file, on a semi-annual basis, the same form of schedules as its support for obtaining the Board's future certifications on use of USS funds.

Warwick has filed the following information with its petition and its July 6, 2004 letter:

- A Cost Support Response Form prepared as of June 21, 2004 (schedules for 2004 proforma and 2005 projected).
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Having reviewed the petition and the information submitted in support thereof, the Board <u>HEREBY CERTIFIES</u> that Warwick shall use the federal USS it receives during 2005 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which such support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.101et seq.

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DATED: 8/19/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

CAROLA MURPHY COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES

COMMISSIONER

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

7014214

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY



Agenda Date: 8/18/04 Agenda Item: IV C

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS** 

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ) ORDER OF APPROVAL WARWICK VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY ) FOR CERTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO ) THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT ) DOCKET NO. TO01090575

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

#### BY THE BOARD:

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Because state certification is now required on an annual basis, and in order to ensure continued use of universal support funds in a manner consistent with federal law, the Board <u>DIRECTS</u> Warwick to submit to the Board, no later that July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, a report, in a manner and format to be determined by Staff, providing auditable information sufficient to determine Warwick's compliance with federal law, including, but not limited to, compliance with the FCC's required uses of universal support funds. The Board <u>FURTHER DIRECTS</u> Warwick to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Such notice shall be reviewed by Staff prior to its publication.

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Having reviewed the petition and the information submitted in support thereof, the Board <u>HEREBY CERTIFIES</u> that Warwick shall use the federal USS it receives during 2005 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which such support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.101et seq.

The Board FURTHER DIRECTS Warwick to continue to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1st of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Such notice shall be reviewed by Staff prior to its publication. In addition, the Board requests that the Attorney General's office provide, to the Secretary of the FCC, a letter transmitting this Order in compliance with certification requirements as set forth in 47 C.F.R.

DATED: 8/19/04

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

**PRESIDENT** 

COMMISSIONER

COMMIŠSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES

COMMISSIONER

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

### Service List

### Docket No. TO01090575

Martin Rotherfelder, Esq. Rotherfelder Stern, L.L.C. 625 Central Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090

Herbert Gareiss, Vice President Warwick Valley Telephone Company 47 Main Street P.O. Box 592 Warwick, NY 10990

Carol Artale Legal Specialist Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

Seema M. Singh, Acting Ratepayer Advocate Division of Ratepayer Advocate 31 Clinton Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 46005 Newark, NJ 07101

Todd Steadman, D.A.G.
Department of Law and Public Safety
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124 Halsey Street
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Newark, NJ 07102

Bruce Gallagher Board of Public Utilities Division of Telecommunications Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102



Agenda Date: 8/18/04 Agenda Item: IV <sup>C</sup>

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

TEL	EC(	MMC	(UN	CAT	IONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF (
WARWICK VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY )
FOR CERTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO )
THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT )

ORDER OF APPROVAL

**DOCKET NO. TO01090575** 

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

## BY THE BOARD:

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8/19/04 DATED:

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

JEANNE M. FOX **PRESIDENT** 

FREDERICK F

COMMISSIONER

COMMIŠSIONER

**CONNIE O. HUGHES** 

COMMISSIONER

JACK ALTER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

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## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

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FOR CERTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT	) )	DOCKET NO. TO01090575

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DATED: 8/19/04

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FREDERICK F

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ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

#### Service List

#### Docket No. TO01090575

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